

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 /040 W

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R 061538Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, PINS, PINR, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ARMY PROMOTIONS

REF: KADUNA 353

SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF NIGERIAN ARMY OFFICERS, INCLUDING EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, HAVE BEEN PROMOTED, BUT FMG IS NOT PUBLICIZING PROMOTION LIST. SEEMING LESSON FOR OFFICER CORPS IN PROMOTIONS IS THAT IT PAYS TO BE LOYAL TO FMG. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM FRAGMENTS OF INFORMATION APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS IT IS APPARENT THAT A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING NIGERIAN ARMY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN PROMOTED. FMG HAS YET MADE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROMOTION LIST, BUT NEWS STORIES AND PHOTO CAPTIONS ARE REFERRING TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER AS BRIGADIER GARBA AND OYO STATE GOVERNOR AS BRIGADIER JEMIBEWON.

2. DATT'S SCOUTING HAS TURNED UP FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS, DEFINITELY NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST:

A. FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER:

AISIDA, FRANCIS; SUPREME HEADQUARTERS; FORMER MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON

ALABI ISAMA, GORDON O.; PRINCIPAL GENERAL STAFF OFFICER, ARMY;

ORGANIZER OF COUNTERATTACK THAT CRUSHED FEBRUARY 13 COUP ATTEMPT.

BAJOWA, JOSEPH O.; QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

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BALI, DOMKAT Y.; ADJUTANT GENERAL

EJIGA, GEOFFRY O.; COMMANDANT, NIGERIAN STAFF COLLEGE  
GARBA, JOSEPH N.; COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
JEMIBEWON, DAVID; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF OYO STATE  
WUSHISHI, M. I.; GOC, 4 INFANTRY DIVISION (LAGOS)  
B. FROM LT. COL. TO COLONEL:  
BABANGIDA, IBRAHIM; DIRECTOR OF ARMOR; LEADER OF COUNTERATTACK  
THAT DISLODGED DIMKA FROM NBC RADIO STATION  
BALOGUN, SAIDU AYODELE; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF OGUN STATE  
BELLO, SANI; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF KANO STATE  
DUBA, GARBA; CO, 4 BRIGADE  
JEGA, MOHAMMED D.; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF GONGOLA STATE  
KALIEL, M. BELLO; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF BAUCHI STATE  
KPERA, JOHN ATOM; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF ANAMBRA STATE  
MOHAMMED, UMARU ALHAJI; MILITARY GOVERNOR OF SOKOTO STATE

3. BRITISH OFFICER DETAILED TO STAFF COLLEGE, KADUNA, HAS EEN  
LIST OF PROMOTEES (LT. COL. TO COL AND COLONEL TO BRIGADIER)  
TOTALING ABOUT 60 NAMES. ACCORDING TO ARMY SOURCE MAJOR TO  
LT. COL. PROMOTIONS WILL BE MADE SHORTLY. SOURCE SAYS THESE  
PROMOTIONS ARE BEING SPEEDED UP SIX MONTHS (NORMALLY THERE  
WOULD BE NONE UNTIL OCTOBER) AS RESULT OF ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT,  
IMPLYING PURPOSE IS TO HEAD OFF FURTHER DISGRUNTLEMENT OVER  
LACK OF ADVANCEMENT. AIR FORCE PROMOTIONS ARE ALSO PENDING.  
NO WORD YET ON NAVY.

4. COMMENT: OFFICERS WHO PERFORMED EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES FOR  
FMG DURING COUP ATTEMPT -- ALABI ISAMA AND BABANGIDA -- HAVE  
BEEN PROMOTED (BUT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN ANY CASE TO GIVE  
THEM RANK COMMENSURATE WITH JOBS THEY HOLD). IT CANNOT YET BE  
SAID DEFINITELY HOW MIDDLE BELT OFFICERS FARED IN PROMOTION  
EXERCISE, EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE NOT EXCLUDED. OF KNOWN  
PROMOTEES BALI IS CHRISTIAN FROM LANGTANG, PLATEAU STATE,  
AND THEREFORE LIKELY AN ANGAS, AS IS GARBA, WHOSE HOME TOWN IS  
ALSO LANGTANG; BABANGIDA IS MUSLIM MIDDLE BELTER FROM NIGER  
STATE, PERHAPS OF GWARI TRIBE; EJIGA IS IDOMA FROM BENUE STATE;  
KPERA IS TIV. ON THIS SCANTY EVIDENCE IT SEEMS THAT FMG IS  
REQARDING OFFICERS FOR LOYALTY, REGARDLESS OF TRIBAL BACKGROUND.

5. BY LETTING FACT OF PROMOTIONS LEAK OUT PIECEMEAL -- RATHER  
THAN FORTHRIGHTLY PUBLISHING PROMOTION LIST -- FMG MAY BE HOPING  
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TO AVERT CRITICISM FROM PRESS AND PUBLIC SUCH AS FOLLOWED JANUARY  
GENERAL OFFICER PROMOTIONS (LAGOS 0452). EFFECTIVENESS OF  
THIS STRATAGEM WOULD SEEM DOUBTFUL. UNDERCURRENT OF FEELING  
ALREADY EXISTS THAT COUP-RIDDEN MILITARY HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES  
UNFIT TO GOVERN. TRYING TO HIDE PROMOTIONS CAN HARDLY IMPROVE  
MILITARY'S STANDING. NEVERTHELESS, FOR SAKE OF STABILITY AND  
TO ANSWER CRITICISMS OF PROMOTION POLICY EXPRESSED BY COUP  
PLOTTERS, MILITARY SEEMS TO HAVE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GO

AHEAD WITH PROMOTIONS IN SPITE OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTION.

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## Message Attributes

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